Nov. 15 – 37 Thanks be to God which giveth
2 ~~Tim.~~ 1 3 – 6 us the victory through our Lord Jesus
Christ.

The Secret of Paul's Thanksgiving the Key to ours.

Intro.

"However flowerless the ways
Of grim November,
However dull and drear her days,
We would remember
One happy time she sets apart
For royal living,
A gift to cheer and bless each heart,--
It is Thanksgiving!"

Emma C. Dowd.

.....oOo.....

Intro.

Paul, the most appreciative man in the whole N. T., the most thankful to God, who even gloried in his very sufferings and trials.

I. Joy came to Paul when he ceased ~~to condemn others and began to be conscious of others~~ bridged the gulf between himself & others.

"High thots and noble in all lands
Help me: my soul is fed by such
But ah, the touch of life and hands,
The human touch!
Warm, vital, close, life's symbols dear,
These need I most, and now, and here."

Richard Burton.

(1)

For our own good we need to contact the lives of others.

II. Paul first had to touch the lives of others before their lives could touch his.
Our lives cannot be influenced by others except as we touch their lives.

"There are loyal hearts, there are spirits brave
There are souls that are pure and true;
Then give to the world the best you have,
And the best will come to you.
Give love, and love to your heart will flow,
A strength in your utmost need;
Have faith, and a score of hearts will show
Their faith in your word and deed."

(2)

III. Paul reached touched the lives of others by ministering unto their needs in loving service. It was this ministering love that created in Paul a fountain of thanksgiving.

SERVICE. (3)

"Yet, who, looking backward o'er his years,
Feels not his eyelids wet with grateful tears,
If he hath been
Permitted, weak and sinful as he was,
To cheer and aid in some ennobling cause
His fellow men?

If he hath hidden the outcast, or let in
A ray of sunshine to a cell of sin--
If he hath lent
Strength to the weak, and, in an hour of need,
Over the suffering, mindless of his creed
Or home, hath bent,

He hath not lived in vain, and while he gives
The praise to Him in whom he moves and lives,
With thankful heart;
He gazes backward, and with hope before,
Knowing that from his works he nevermore
Can henceforth part."

Whittier.

.....oOo.....

IX. Conclusion:

Shall we not use the secret of
Paul's thanksgiving as the key to ours?

"So many gods and so many creeds,
So many paths that wind and wind;
When all that this world needs
Is just the art of being kind."

"If I can stop one heart from breaking,
I shall not live in vain.
If I can ease one life the aching,
Or cool one pain,
Or help one fainting robin
Into his nest again
I shall not live in vain,"
I shall not live in vain."

.....oOo.....

.....oOo.....

"Be thou the rainbow to the storms of life!
The evening beam that smiles the clouds away
And tints tomorrow with prophetic ray."

Byron.

The mother's love & joy.